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FILED

March 20, 2003

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD
OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF

Administrative Action

FRANCIS G. RIENZO, Jr., M.D.
LICENSE NO. MA 56451

**ORDER GRANTING UNRESTRICTED
LICENSURE**

LICENSED TO PRACTICE MEDICINE :
AND SURGERY IN THE STATE OF
NEW JERSEY

This matter was first opened to the State Board of Medical Examiners ("Board") in November, 2000 upon the filing of a Consent Order, pursuant to which Respondent Francis G. Rienzo, Jr., M.D., ("Respondent") voluntarily surrendered his license to practice medicine and surgery, due to a substance abuse problem. In September, 2001, Respondent entered into a Consent Order Granting Restricted Licensure. That Order conditioned Respondent's license to practice medicine and surgery on his continued abstinence from psychoactive substances, and his continued treatment with Thomas J. Mackarevich, Ph.D., CADC, LCSW. Respondent was further required to participate in Alcoholic's Anonymous/Narcotic's Anonymous ("AA/NA") at least three times per

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week, and the Physicians' Health Program of the Medical Society of New Jersey and its program of random urine monitoring for psychoactive substances.

On September 4, 2002, Respondent appeared before the Preliminary Evaluation Committee of the Board and petitioned for unrestricted licensure. David I. Canavan, M.D., Medical Director Emeritus of the Physicians' Health Program, appeared with Respondent **and** testified in support of his petition for unrestricted licensure. Dr. Canavan testified that Respondent has been totally compliant with the treatment plan set forth by the Physicians' Health Program, and that all urine screens have been negative for the presence of psychoactive substances. Respondent also testified that he currently meets with Dr. Mackarevich on a monthly basis, attends a **weekly** physician/professional support group held by Dr. Mackarevich, and attends AA/NA meetings six times **per** week. Respondent **also** presented a letter from Dr. Mackarevich which stated, in part, that Respondent demonstrates sufficient coping mechanisms and that his prognosis is "very good-excellent". In addition, Respondent testified that he has been drug-free for one year **and** nine months, **and** would continue to exercise the special care and judgment necessary to assure avoidance of problematic drug-related behavior.

The Board having determined that Respondent has been totally compliant with the Consent Order Granting Restricted Licensure dated September 12, 2001, and that the within disposition is adequately protective of the public health, safety, and welfare.

IT IS ON THIS 9th DAY OF March, 2003,

ORDERED:

1. Francis G. Rienzo, Jr., M.D. is hereby granted an unrestricted license to practice medicine and surgery in the **State** of New Jersey.

STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

By: William V. Harrer MD BLD
William V. Harrer, M.D., B.L.D.
President